

Chapter 5
THE BROADENED OPPORTUNITY FOR OFFICER SELECTION AND
TRAINING (BOOST) PROGRAM

1. References

- (a) OPNAVINST 6110.1E
- (b) MILPERSMAN 1530-030

2. Program Information

a. The Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) program is a college preparatory program which prepares applicants for entry into the NROTC Scholarship program or the U.S. Naval Academy. BOOST provides an upward mobility opportunity to Fleet Sailors who have demonstrated qualities necessary for careers as Unrestricted Line Navy officers or as Nurse Corps officers, but whose past academic performance does not qualify them for immediate selection into an officer accession program. As the BOOST program is a significant contributor to minority NROTC accessions, minority personnel are strongly encouraged to apply.

b. BOOST is located at the Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, Rhode Island. It provides a rigorous 10-month college-preparatory curriculum consisting of mathematics, English, science, computer science and military training.

c. Upon satisfactory completion of BOOST, students are transferred to the NROTC unit where they are separated from active service and receive tuition, books, fees, and a \$200 per month stipend as provided by the NROTC Scholarship. Housing, subsistence and health insurance while in college are the individual student's responsibility. Individuals applying to BOOST must be prepared to assume the expenses associated with college. Students entering the U.S. Naval Academy will report to the Academy for Plebe Summer Indoctrination as Midshipmen.

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d. Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits are available to eligible individuals who qualify with 30 months of active duty upon release from active duty. Individuals who do not qualify by reason of insufficient time in service will not be granted an extension on active duty to gain Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits.

3. Eligibility Requirements. Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

a. U.S. citizenship is required and cannot be waived.

b. Age criteria for the BOOST Program are as follows:

(1) Prospective NROTC Scholarship Program applicants must be less than 22 years old on 30 June in the year they will begin BOOST. A waiver for each month of active duty service in the Armed Forces, up to a maximum of 36 months, can be granted.

(2) Prospective Naval Academy candidates must not have passed their 23rd birthday on 1 July following graduation from BOOST. No age waivers will be granted for the USNA. Applicants interested in USNA should review eligibility requirements in Chapter 2.

c. Be certified as physically qualified for the NROTC Scholarship Program by the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB) in accordance with the Manual of the Medical Department. No physical exam is to accompany the BOOST application. Upon selection as a primary or alternate candidate, a DODMERB physical examination appointment notice will be sent to the applicant with instructions. Shipboard or overseas personnel will receive a complete DODMERB physical examination package. As a preliminary screening, commanding officers should determine from the individual's health record whether the applicant has normal color vision. Any color vision deficiency is disqualifying for regular NROTC and the Naval Academy, but is not disqualifying for the Nurse Corps Option.

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d. Minimum Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) scores for eligibility are 470 (Verbal)/490 (Math). Minimum ACT Assessment (ACT) scores for eligibility are 18 (English)/20 (Math). These scores may be waived as follows:

(1) Active duty applicants may receive a waiver to 430 (Verbal)/440 (Math) on the SAT, or 16 (English)/ 18 (Math) on the ACT if the Verbal (VE) + Arithmetic Reasoning (AR) scores on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) are 110 or greater. Applicants who have not yet retaken the enlistment ASVAB can be authorized a one-time only retake for the purpose of qualifying for a commissioning program (including BOOST). Requests for SAT/ACT waivers must be addressed in the Commanding Officer's endorsement and in the applicant's personal statement.

(2) No waivers for the SAT/ACT will be granted below the 430/440 or 16/18 levels, and no waivers for the ASVAB will be granted.

e. Applicants must be high school graduates or hold General Educational Development (GED) equivalency certificates.

f. Applicants must have less than 30 semester hours or 45 credit hours of traditional college course credit to be eligible for BOOST. No waivers will be granted. Applicants with more than 30 semester hours or 45 credit hours of college credit are encouraged to apply directly for the NROTC Program, the Naval Academy, or the Enlisted Commissioning Program, if eligible.

g. Applicants must be enlisted in the Navy or Naval Reserve, be on active duty, and have or be willing to obtain at least 36 months obligated service as of 1 July of the year entering BOOST.

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h. Applicants must be of good moral character and have no courts-martial conviction or civilian felony conviction, no record of disciplinary action under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or conviction by civil court for misdemeanors (except minor traffic violations) during the three years preceding application for the program. Any substantiated drug use or alcohol incident, while in an enlisted status, is considered an aspect of an individual's professional performance and judgement and will be considered when assessing future leadership potential.

i. Enlisted applicants below paygrade E-4 may have no more than two dependents. USNA applicants must be unmarried with no dependents. Marriage and/or dependents do not disqualify applicants from the NROTC Scholarship program.

j. Applicants must be recommended by their commanding officer.

k. Eligibility requirements in this paragraph must be maintained during the application period and throughout participation in the program.

4. Application Submission Procedures and Deadlines.

Applicant Procedures. Applicants must fill out the Officer Programs Application form (Chapter 2), and submit it via their chain of command by the following deadline:

a. Applicant must complete all application requirements prior to 1 October of the application year.

b. Applicants must submit SAT or ACT scores, taken within three years prior to January 1 of the application year. Applicants may submit these scores by (1) providing a copy of the SAT/ACT test scores with their application or (2) requesting the testing agency forward test scores directly to CNET by using code 0013 for both assessment tests.

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c. Applicants must take the SAT or ACT not later than 1 October of the application year to ensure CNET receipt prior to the convening of the selection board. Applicants are encouraged to contact their Command Career Counselor or Navy College Office for information on local availability of the SAT and ACT.

5. Information and Guidance for Commanding Officers. Upon receipt of an application, the commanding officer will:

a. Interview and provide a recommendation using the Commanding Officer's Recommendation form included in the Officer Programs Application. Ensure that the applicant meets all eligibility criteria and identify and make recommendations in cases where waivers are required.

b. Forward applications to:

Chief of Naval Education and Training
CNET OTE6/084 BOOST
250 Dallas Street
Pensacola, FL 32508-5220

6. Information and Guidance for Applicant Interviews

a. A minimum of three applicant interviews are required. Officer interviewers must use the Interviewer's Appraisal Sheet (NAVCROUT 1100/13), provided in Chapter 2, Officer Programs Application.

b. Interviews should be conducted simultaneously by a panel of officers. Officers conducting the interviews should be Unrestricted Line officers, O-3 and above. For BOOST, Nurse Corps option applicants, a Nurse Corps officer (O-3 or above) is desired, but not mandatory.

7. Administrative Information

a. Change of address. Applicants must notify the CNET (OTE6/0841) in writing of any change in mailing address or

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information submitted in this application from the time of application through transfer to BOOST.

b. Service Obligation

(1) Enlisted members on active duty who are selected for BOOST must have at least 36 months of active obligated service remaining, or agree to extend their enlistment or active duty agreement for the 36-month period, prior to executing transfer to BOOST School. Selectees will receive Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders (with leave en route authorized) for transfer to the Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, Rhode Island, to begin their BOOST School instruction in August of the year following selection. Members who do not have the requisite minimum obligated service must agree to extend their enlistment utilizing NAVPERS 1070/621 or NAVPERS 1070/622. The reason for extension of enlistment should state "Training (BOOST)." The following statement of understanding should be included with the reason for extension of enlistment: "I understand that upon admission to a university under this program, this agreement becomes binding and may not thereafter be canceled except as provided by the MILPERSMAN."

(2) If voluntarily or involuntarily disenrolled from BOOST, individuals will remain in their enlisted rate in the Navy or Naval Reserve and be made available for general assignment. Disenrolled members will be required to serve time remaining on their 36-month enlisted active duty obligation.

c. Withdrawal of Application or Recommendation

(1) An applicant may withdraw from consideration at any time prior to selection board convening. A selectee wishing to withdraw should immediately notify the Chief of Naval Education and Training (see paragraph 9 for address and phone number).

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(2) Commanding Officers must notify CNET immediately of circumstances that would affect the members continued program eligibility. These circumstances include a marked drop in the overall performance, civilian or military violations which have resulted or have the potential to result in conviction or imposition of punishment or other circumstances which result in the member not meeting program eligibility standards.

d. Transfer Policy

(1) Applicants selected for BOOST who receive PCS orders for execution prior to transfer to BOOST, should not be transferred. If a transfer directive is received, the commanding officer should notify the orders originating authority that the individual has been selected for BOOST and the orders should be cancelled.

(2) The Commander, Navy Personnel Command will issue transfer directives. Commanding officers shall ensure that no person ordered to BOOST is transferred without the required obligated service. Transfer directives are normally issued after DODMERB determination of physical qualification.

(3) BOOST, Nurse Corps Option graduates are eligible for a Nurse Corps Option NROTC Scholarship only. BOOST Nurse Corps Option selectees must sign a Page 13 entry before executing their orders to BOOST, acknowledging they have been selected for the Nurse Corps Option and agreeing to fulfill their 36-month active duty service obligation if they disenroll from the Nurse Corps Option or decline a NROTC Nurse Corps Option Scholarship upon graduation from BOOST.

e. Advancement in Rating for BOOST Students

(1) BOOST Students remain eligible for advancement while completing BOOST and up to transfer to the NROTC unit.

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(2) As BOOST students, the individual may not be able to fulfill the requirements for advancement in rating due to the school's stringent academic requirements. Applicants are encouraged to complete all requirements for advancement prior to arrival to BOOST.

8. Inquiries. Information and questions concerning Fleet applications should be addressed to:

Chief of Naval Education and Training
CNET OTE6/0841 (BOOST)
250 Dallas Street
Pensacola, Florida 32508-5220
(850) 452-4944, extension 316, 317, 318/DSN 922
Email: CLYDE-E.losey@smtp.cnet.navy.mil

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